DECLASSIFIED

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 1954

E. has a severe cold. This is especially bad luck in such a heavenly climate.

Bob Pflieger - OSS - arrived here this morning from Brussels bringing a day-old Figaro. From reading this and earlier papers, one gathers the impression of continuing confusion in French political circles over the consequences of the EDC action. It is being more and more realized that, in addition to its having constituted the greatest Soviet diplomatic triumph since the war and an equivalent defeat for United States diplomacy, France herself may have irretrievably lost prestige on account of it. Mendès-France is still trying to explain that Communist votes were not really needed to effect the result. His own role in the performance was unenviable. The necessary change of 28 votes, which would have killed the Aumeran motion, could easily have been brought about if Mendès had thrown the authority of the Government against the motion instead of disclaiming all responsibility for the death of EDC, even though surreptitiously working by every means to kill it. August 30th was a sad day for France, and a tragic one for its partners. The dream was so close to reality, and the opportunity to organize Europe will probably never again be presented under such auspicious circumstances.

The initial stab was given by Mendès at Brussels. His protocol, representing no compromise whatever, was a hodgepodge of extreme nationalist demands, interspersed with sops to various special interests in, for example, the "anti-Monnet", "Boussac" and "Juin" proposals. The spontaneous refusal of it by the other five powers seemed to make no impression on Mendès except to accentuate his petulance and arrogancy, and deepen his persecution complex. The Italian press is now openly saying he was carrying out a secret agreement made by him

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CRC DATE 7-1-81
☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
AUTH: REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

at Geneva with Molotov by the terms of which he undertook to bury EDC in return for a truce in Indo-China. Many of his political enemies in France are making the same comment. I do not believe it. However, regarding the Russians, he is either gullible, weak, unrealistic, or else over-influenced by members of his entourage who believe, or profess to believe, in the pacific aims of Soviet foreign policy.

Fine swimming at Palma Nova, with a hailstorm, thunder and lightning at one o'clock. Went to town for a while before dinner. Carmen called from her villa, San Miguel, to say she had expected us to dinner. Unfortunately, her telegram had crossed the Island on snail back, for we only received it at nine tonight. We will go there for lunch on Friday.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CAC DATE 7-1-81
☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED